

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/000042

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl. <sup>7</sup>: A63F 13/00, G07F 17/34

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

DWPI and keywords (slot poker pachinko pachislo casino bingo keno "internet gaming", game machine console, G07F 17/-, determining, variable number, random, jackpot prize bonus win bonanza, trigger activated "set off" event initiated, total sum accumulated tally)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	AU 200234395 A1 (DAUMA PTY LTD) 24 October 2002 Whole document	27-33, 37-41, 43, 44, 48-53, 61-71, 74, 77- 82, 84-86, 96- 101
X	AU 13023/92 (655801) A (FRANKOVIC) 24 September 1992 Whole document	27-33, 37-41, 43, 44, 48-53, 61-71, 74, 77- 82, 84-86, 96- 101
X	AU 53370/86 (589158) B (FRANKOVIC et al) 14 August 1986 Whole document	27-33, 37-41, 43, 44, 48-53, 61-71, 74, 77- 82, 84-86, 96- 101

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C☒ See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search  
27 February 2004Date of mailing of the international search report  
17 MAR 2004

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## C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2002/0187836 A1 (MEYER) 12 December 2002 Whole document	
A	AU 199943453 (714299) B1 (NEURIZON PTY LTD) 23 December 1999 Whole document	
A	WO 99/03078 A1 (ARISTOCRAT LEISURE INDUSTRIES PTY LTD) 21 January 1999 Whole document	
A	WO 97/12338 A1 (WINTech INVESTMENTS PTY LTD) 3 April 1997 Whole document	

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**Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)**

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

**Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)**

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

See extra sheet.

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

**Remark on Protest**

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

**Supplemental Box**

(To be used when the space in any of Boxes I to VIII is not sufficient)

**Continuation of Box No: III**

The international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention because it does not relate to one invention or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. In coming to this conclusion the International Searching Authority has found that there are different inventions as follows:

1. Claim 1 relates to awarding a prize in a gaming system including a plurality of game consoles comprising the steps of providing a trigger value derived from a random variable having a non-uniform distribution, periodically receiving count data from each game console, being data representing at least one parameter of a game console, calculating a total value representing the total count data received, comparing the total value with the trigger value, transmitting a prize instruction signal to an output means if the total value has a predetermined relationship with the trigger value, whereby the prize instruction signal results in at least one game console issuing a prize. It is considered that the random variable having a non-uniform distribution comprises a first "special technical feature".
2. Claim 87 relates to a gaming system comprising at least one game console, a trigger value generator for generating a trigger value, a prize triggering means, and a controller which is adapted to periodically receive count data from one game console, being data representing at least one parameter of each game console, store count data for each game console in a different memory location, calculate a total value representing the total count data received by a receiver for each game console and compare the total value for each game console with the trigger value and operate the prize triggering means to transmit a prize instruction signal to the gaming console which has a total value having a predetermined relationship with the trigger value. It is considered that storing count data for each game console in a different memory location so as to compare the total value for each game console with the trigger value comprises a second "special technical feature".

These groups are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept, that is, they do not have any common inventive features, which define a contribution over the prior art. The common concept linking together these groups of claims is awarding a prize in a gaming system of at least one console by generating a trigger value, receiving count data from each game console, being data representing at least one parameter of a game console, calculating a total value representing the total count data received, comparing the total value with the trigger value, and outputting a prize signal to at least one game console if the total value has a predetermined relationship with the trigger value. However this concept is not novel in the light of AU 200234395 A1 (FRANKOVIC), AU 13023/92 (655801) A (FRANKOVIC) and AU 53370/86 (589158) B (FRANKOVIC et al). Therefore these claims lack unity a posteriori. It is also noted independent claims 27, 41, and 79 are not novel or inventive when compared with the prior art as set out in Box C.

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

Information on patent family members

International application No.

**PCT/AU2004/000042**

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member					
AU	200234395	NONE					
AU	655801	AU	13023/92				
AU	589158	AU	53370/86				
US	2002187836	AU	45837/02				
AU	714299	AU	62552/00	CA	2419733	GB	2368539
		WO	0110523	ZA	200201069		
WO	9903078	AU	81994/98	AU	85540/01	AU	2001100032
		AU	2001100033	NZ	502377	ZA	9805939
WO	9712338	AU	69806/96	CA	2233039	GB	2323303
		NZ	318340	US	2001049303		
END OF ANNEX							